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Welcome

The long winter months are ahead with a busy holiday season rapidly approaching. There is a lot of Guardian ad Litem good news to share from this summer and I've tried to pack it all in to this, the fourth edition of the Idaho GAL News.

Some of my personal good news arrived on July 22, 2009 when my beautiful daughter was born. As cliché as it sounds, my life feels complete with her in our family. Though, despite what everyone says, I do remember my life before children (I was rested and didn't have a house full of

small pink baby stuff), I do remember the pain of childbirth, and being a parent is not 'natural'; I have no idea what I'm doing.

I would like to welcome the new Co-executive Director in Sixth Judicial District, Liz Kirkbride. I have no doubt she will be a welcome addition to the CASA family.

I hope your fall is filled with happy moments shared with family and friends. Take a moment to watch the leaves fall from the trees, attend a college football game or carve a jack-o-lantern with someone you love.



Ava Hart Thaemert 12 weeks old

Sincerely,
Nanci Thaemert

No Forgotten Children's Event

child holds a message to the community.

At 11:30am a proclamation signed by Chief Justice Eismann will be read urging citizens in Idaho to volunteer their time and thanking the more than 500 volunteers across Idaho who make a difference in the lives of abused and abandoned children. Finally, the 2009 Idaho Guardian ad Litem Volunteer of the Year award will be presented to Gary and Susan Temby, an amazing couple from Coeur d'Alene.

A booth will be set up throughout the day to hand out brochures

containing information about foster care, Idaho CASA programs and how the citizens of Idaho can help.

If you would like to volunteer at the event, please contact Nanci Thaemert at (208) 947-7458 or nthaemert@idcourts.net

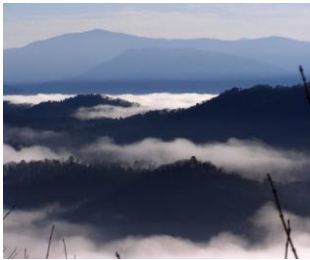


The No Forgotten Children's Event will be held on **October 23, 2009** at the Capital Park in downtown Boise. The event will kick off at 7:00am with the placement of 386 cutouts representing children in foster care. Each foster



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"Never raise your hand to your children; it leaves your midsection unprotected."

Robert Orben

Board of Directors Corner

Improving Nonprofit Decision Making Amid Economic Crisis

Over the next year or two, budgetary challenges are clearly in the cards, and there are likely to be successive and different situations requiring action. Change may be inevitable, but the impact of this change on an organization depends on which decisions are made and how. Right now, your leadership may require a combination of learning new skills and approached and unlearning previous behavior.

Recognize what has changed

Just because an organization has weathered rough times previously doesn't guarantee that riding it out will work right now. Every piece of information about fundraising, contracts, revenues, financing, and cash flow must be scanned for

triggers or warning signs. It's time to be on high alert.

Know your starting point

Compile and analyze the financial picture with real, unvarnished facts. An organization with less than one month's operating budget in cash may need to make short-term decisions, while a nonprofit with reserves of six months can step back for more detailed scenario plans.

Agree on the goals

If everyone involved understands the urgent need to focus, an organization's stakeholders can arrive at agreement about top priorities. This agreement grounds decisions within the core mission.

Make the right decisions

Focus on making the right decision for an organization and let the implementation questions

follow. This requires that you take a step back to consider the order. In general, specific cost reductions are not the most important decisions, but they can easily dominate a meeting, especially among those whom the decision affects.

Taking a hard look

Making a right decision may require not only adopting new practices but also unlearning entrenched behavior. And of course, better decision making requires that you have reliable information—and that you act on it with a sense of urgency and clarity. In tough economic times, how you make and communicate decisions can be the key to unlocking the potential of your organization.

Information provided by "The Nonprofit Quarterly"

Stories of Child Advocacy

A boy, Mark, and his four brothers and sisters, started their lives out with parents addicted to meth. By the time Mark was eight, he and his siblings were taken away from their abusive parents and thrust into a system they didn't understand. The kids finally had plenty to eat but were separated. Their only constant was CASA volunteer, Jennifer, who was assigned to see them through the court process.

The strong bond between Mark, his siblings and their parents was undeniable. The kids watched as their mom

and dad fought to regain custody by proving to the judge they could stay clean. The process ended in disappointment when one week before the children were to return home the parents relapsed.

Meanwhile, the kids had been reunited in a single foster home, the Johnson's. The Johnson's, who already had three children, decided to adopt them. Jennifer helped convince the judge the couple really could raise all eight children. Ever since, the family has proved her right.

The foster parents never intended to become the head of such a gigantic family. When no one else stepped up to raise Mark and his siblings the foster family knew they could not allow the siblings to be separated permanently.

It's rare for a big family like Mark's to get to stay together, but with the hard work and dedication of people like Jennifer and the Johnson family, Mark has beaten the odds.

Partial excerpt from the Fox 12 News story run on March 25, 2009.

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The 2009 fiscal year ended on June 30 and the FY09 statewide statistics have improved in several important areas. The state collects these numbers to report to the legislature, for grant writing purposes and to determine areas where support is most needed. Here is a general overview of where the GAL/CASA programs are in Idaho:

- ▶ Total number of children served in 2009: **3,464**
- ▶ Percentage of children assigned a GAL volunteer: **71%**
- ▶ Number of volunteer guardian ad litem hours: **23,962**
- ▶ Number of attorney hours provided: **4,320**
- ▶ Total non-state revenue: **\$456,494**
- ▶ Total revenue: **\$1,108,427**

Volunteer Humor

Overheard at the World Volunteer Conference

In response to the observation that volunteers are too often seen as amateurs: "Just remember: Noah's Ark was built by amateurs. The Titanic was built by professionals."

Meals on Wheels

A daughter had just helped her 90-year-old mother through the strain of moving from the family home into a new unit in a senior apartment building. The daughter was trying to tidy up all the arrangements and tactfully said: "Mum, what about Meals on Wheels?" To which her mother replied: "No, dear, I don't think I could volunteer for them anymore."

Top Eight Slogans for our Volunteer Program:

1. You said that when the going gets tough, the tough get going. Well, it's starting to get tough, so we're going.
2. Community service...it's not just for hardened criminals on parole, anymore.
3. Volunteer!...What else are you going to do with a liberal arts degree?
4. The Golden Rule still applies, unless you're A sado-masochist.
5. Volunteer, cause you'd like your resume to be at least ¾ of a page.
6. Altruism is not a disease.
7. Please help us by submitting your slogan proposals. The winner gets a free cup of coffee.
8. Volunteerism...the other white meet. (Submitted by the Council for the Radical Advancement of Pork).

Top Nine Reasons for Becoming a Fund Raiser:

1. We were inspired by a Sally Struthers infomercial.
2. For the glamour and the profit sharing plan.
3. We take rejection well.
4. We need to change jobs every 1.7 years.
5. I thought if I raised money in the capital campaign, they'd name a building after me.
6. We can use the word "athon" after almost any verb.
7. We want everyone to have an opportunity to become our boss.
8. Dinner at Waldorf twice a week.
9. My parole officer said that would qualify as community service.

From: Accent on Humor book set: The Wit and Wisdom of Philanthropy

